UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION

4/4/47
No. 236

FARM PROGRAM NEWS

SURPLUS SPUDS WILL FEED WORLD'S HUNGRY - Exports of potatoes under the Department of Agriculture's program to move stocks from the bumper 1946 crop are past the 3 million bushel mark. Completed contracts under the export program cover 6 million bushels more, while contracts for another 2 million bushels are being negotiated.

The Department will purchase at support prices an additional 6.5 million bushels of U. S. No. 1 grade potatoes from Maine and the North Central States for re-sale to the Army. These potatoes will be distributed in Germany for seed, and will permit potatoes now held in that country to be released for table stock.

The Department also has made potatoes available for relief feeding by foreign governments, UNRRA, and the Army, at a token price of 4 cents per hundredweight, f.o.b. country shipping point. Belgium, France, Italy, Portugal and Spain have purchased potatoes from the U. S. under the export program.

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CANNING SUGAR - No sugar especially earmarked for canning will be available for farm families to put up fruits and preserves this summer and fall, rationing officials have pointed out. The No. 11 ration stamp, which became valid April 1, will be good for 10 pounds, and later provisions will be made for increasing the ration for all users slightly above last year's levels.

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USDA officials say there's still plenty of Irish potatoes. Consumers are urged to buy and use more of this wholesome food while they're plentiful. Boiled - fried or made into a salad, potatoes are always an old standby with any meal.

(MORE)

MAY 1 LAST DAY
TO SIGN UP UNDER ACP - (Not applicable Chaves and Roosevelt Counties) Farmers, ranchers, do you have your improvements planned for this year? The Agricultural Conservation Program provides assistance through payments, in obtaining materials and services to carry out special soil-building practices in 1947. But you'll have to hurry if you want to enter into this partnership with the Government to get help in making your improvements, _____, Chairman of _____ County ACA Committee, said today. May 1 will be the last day that farmers and ranchers can sign up for assistance under the Agricultural Conservation Program. "Already _____ farmers and ranchers have filed their plans at the county office", _____ pointed out, "and we don't want any farmer or rancher to be disappointed later because he didn't file in time." _____ urged all _____ County farmers to contact the county ACA office at _____ as quickly as possible in order to avoid the last minute rush. "We'll be glad to explain the program and tell you how it will help in making necessary improvements on your farm or ranch", _____ said.

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UNREDEEMED LOAN COTTON
TO BE POOLED AUGUST 1 - Loans on 1946-crop cotton may be redeemed any time until July 31, with all cotton remaining under CCC loan on August 1 going into a pool for producers' accounts, the New Mexico State PMA Committee has announced. Borrowers may either sell their equities in the cotton under loan, or pay off their loans and offer their cotton on the open market.

Unredeemed cotton on August 1 will be placed in a pool and sold in an orderly manner by Commodity Credit Corporation. When the pooled cotton is liquidated, any net proceeds will be distributed to producers after all advances and costs are deducted. No payment will be made at the time cotton is placed in the pool, and producers will not be able to order the sale of their cotton after July 31, 1947.

(MORE)

THE EGG AND YOU - The age-old query — "Which came first, the chicken or the egg?" - was answered recently by a scientist who asserted that seniority honors go to the egg. Well, in our opinion, eggs are still tops — tops in taste and nutrition — and right now they're high on the month's plentiful foods list, says C. E. Habiger, Marketing Specialist of the Production and Marketing Administration. Grocers and markets are featuring eggs this month, and Habiger urges housewives to buy and use more eggs in their daily menues while they're plentiful and a good buy at local markets.

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CENSUS SHOWS MANY FARMS
IN LOW INCOME BRACKET - Only one out of every five U. S. farms yielded $4000 worth of products in 1944, according to newly-released figures from the 1945 Farm Census. This is the minimum level of production necessary to return a net income between $2000 and $3000. Two-thirds of the Nation's farms averaged only about $900 in gross value of output, the 1944 figures show.

Although American farmers have what the Bureau of Agricultural Economics terms "the largest private business in the world", over one-half of the total output in dollar value is concentrated on one-tenth of the farms and the bottom one-third of the farms are limited to 4 percent of the productive value.

Low income farms are concentrated in the Appalachian Highlands, the Ozarks, the cut-over areas of the Great Lakes States, in the Southeastern cotton belt and in parts of New Mexico and Arizona. The west as a whole has one-third of its farms in the $4000-or-over class.

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About 3-1/3 million families, 13 million persons, are now being served by frozen-food locker plants in the U. S. Plants increased from 4,600 in 1943 to 8,000 in 1946.

(MORE)

DAIRY INCOME DROP
EXPECTED IN 1947 - Dairy farmers probably will receive less cash from dairy products in 1947 than in record-breaking 1946, but the income will still be higher than for any year before 1946. The Bureau of Agricultural Economics, in making this forecast, says that people are spending less for dairy products as consumers goods which were scarce during the war come onto the market.

Biggest declines in demand are expected to be for fluid milk, whole milk powder, and foreign-type cheese produced in this country. Dairy exports in 1947 will fall below 1946 exports.

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OWNERSHIP GROWING
ON NATION'S FARMS - Farm tenancy is now at its lowest point in more than 50 years, BAE says.

Noting a trend from farm renting to farm owning, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics this month cautions that the test lies ahead when prices and income go down. The number of foreclosures on farms at that time will tell the tale. In 1945, tenants and sharecroppers operated 32 percent of all U. S. farms. This compares with a high of 42 percent in the 1930's and nearly 39 percent in 1939.

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CHEESE SET-ASIDE
ORDER TERMINATED - War Food Order 15, which required manufacturers of cheddar cheese to set aside certain percentages of their production for sale to Government agencies, has been revoked by the Department of Agriculture. About 1,205 million pounds of cheddar cheese were set aside for Government use during 1943-46. The set-aside aided Government purchases for U. S. military and Lend-Lease needs, evened out supplies available for civilian consumption throughout the year and provided outlet for the heavy milk production of spring and summer months.

(MORE)

(The following story is another good example of localizing program news. This story originated in the Eddy County Office and appeared in the Artesia Advocate, March 13, 1947.)

SOIL BUILDING IS CREDITED
WITH HIGH PRODUCTION - Soil building practices carried out by farmers get much of the credit for this year's high crop production, according to Roy Forehand, Chairman of the County Agricultural Conservation Committee.

"Conservation farming results in better yields, as well as protecting and building land productivity from year to year," he said.

Forehand pointed out that 520 of the county's 705 farmers put soil building practices to work on their farms during 1946. These farms include three-fourths of the county's cropland.

"Conservation benefits all of the people by providing more and better food," Forehand went on. "It takes about three and one-half acres of land to produce the food and clothing needed by one person."

Forehand expects more county farmers to take part in the 1947 Agricultural Conservation Program than ever before. County and community committeemen have started getting together with farmers to work out this year's observation plans, which will be based on the needs of individual farms throughout the county.

Forehand explained that his office, under the U. S. Department of Agriculture, provides payments, materials, and services to carry out special soil-building practices. Total conservation payments in the county for 1946 will be $101,000. However the money represents only a part of the value of conservation work done, because farmers themselves pay a part of the cost.

"We've done a lot of good work since the ACP started back in 1936," said the chairman, "but before that we lost about one-third of our top soil in one generation. We've got a big job ahead. You can't take crops from the land very long without paying back the soil."

The war took toll of the soil, because farmers had to get big production fast. Now increased emphasis should be on practices of long term value, Forehand said.

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New Mexico

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION

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No. 237

FARM PROGRAM NEWS

SPRING CLEAN-UP
ON THE FARM - The Department of Agriculture is again cooperating with the National Farm Protection Association in the annual Spring Clean-Up Campaign.

This is a nation-wide campaign to eliminate accidents, fire and health hazards. Clean-up is important — terribly important. Only a close check by the farm family can reveal all the hazards, but it is a simple job. A thorough job of cleaning up debris, trash and rubbish will do much to help prevent fire, disease and accidents.

About 18,000 farm residents are killed and 1-1/2 million others injured each year in farm accidents.

Farm fires destroy about $90 million worth of farm property each year and an average of 10 lives are lost in farm fires every day.

Spring clean-up can prevent many of them.

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PMA OFFICIALS DISCUSS
COMMODITY LOANS - Government loans on various grains and hay and pasture seed were discussed at a regional meeting of Production and Marketing officials held in Kansas City, Missouri, April 11 and 12, according to A. M. Vance, Acting Chairman of the State PMA Committee. Representing New Mexico at the meeting were C. V. Hemphill, State PMA Chairman, and Gray Barton, PMA Commodity Loans Specialist.

Washington representatives of the Grain Branch and the Field Service Branch of the Production and Marketing Administration and officials from other state PMA offices took part in the discussion on policy matters and procedure relative to loans on the various commodities.

(MORE)

FARMERS COOPERATE ON CONSERVATION PROJECTS - Groups of farmers are increasingly using the ACP program for cooperative and community efforts to improve land and insure production. News items appearing in western newspapers provide a birdseye view of these activities:

Charles A. Baker, chairman of the Gooding (Idaho) County ACP Committee reports that "$5,000 had been set up....to be used by the Northside Canal Co., for the purchase of materials in carrying out noxious weed control work this year in Gooding County." The required 100-percent participation by farmers in the district has been assured. (Gooding Leader, March 6, 1947)

A pooling project is reported in the Burley (Idaho) Herald: "In Cassia County, one project under the pooling agreement program was completed in 1946.... a large drain ditch constructed to drain excess water from eight farms in the community. In previous years the excess water destroyed part of the crops on these farms."

In the LaJoya community of western Mora County, New Mexico, much scarce water was lost because of an inadequate flume over an arroyo. Through a cooperative project under the ACP program a new metal flume was constructed. The Tucumcari News reports that farmers did this job by pooling their farm allowance. The News story states: "The flume was extended across an arroyo and anchored at both ends by means of reinforced concrete... The flume, now complete, makes possible twice as much irrigation water as before."

Summarizing community projects carried on in 1946 in New Mexico, State Committeeman Santiago Marquez is quoted in the March 6 Artesia Advocate as follows: "By executing a pooling agreement, groups of farmers or ranchers may receive practice program assistance for large-scale conservation projects. Practice payments usually cover about half the cost of the work.... 98 community projects benefiting more than 1554 farms and about 50,000 acres of crop land were carried out in New Mexico under the 1946 Agricultural Conservation Program."

(MORE)

Clean up, fix up.

ANDERSON OUTLINES CONSERVATION NEED - Making the Nation's soil safe for the future is a 20-year job under the best conditions, Secretary Clinton P. Anderson recently told the fourth annual Oklahoma Save the Soil Clinic. And it could easily take two or three times that long, with never-ending maintenance.

For instance, 13 million acres had been terraced by 1945, the Secretary said, but seven times that much remained to be done. Farmers had drained two-thirds of a million acres, but had 66 times as many to go. Despite seedings of over 27 million acres of range and pasture land, we had done just one-fifth of the job. Eighteen million acres had been put under contour practices. But national needs required seven times that many more. Eight times as many acres of range land are in need of proper stocking as are now properly stocked.

Though we have nearly 100 million acres under complete soil and water-conservation treatment, and 316 million acres are being used in carrying out one or more Agricultural Conservation Program practices, agriculture is still a long way from the permanent protection necessary for our remaining productive land. This year, less than half the acreage required to grow such intertilled crops as corn, cotton, and soybeans will be adequately protected.

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EGG SUPPORTS UP - Egg prices for the month of May will be supported at 35 cents a dozen, 2 cents a dozen above the announced support price for the months of February, March and April. The increased support price, U. S. Department of Agriculture officials point out, is due to an 8-point rise in the index of prices paid by farmers to a new record high on March 15.

Department purchases will be made only from dealers who certify they have paid producers an average of 35 cents a dozen. During the first 3 months of this year the Department purchased the equivalent of more than 3.4 million cases of shell eggs for foreign account and to support prices.

(MORE)

USDA ASSUMES SUGAR RATIONING AUTHORITY - Transfer of sugar rationing and price control authority to the Department of Agriculture under the recently enacted Sugar Control Extension Act of 1947 will have no immediate effect on most individual consumers. Ration stamps will continue to be validated and cashed as before. Applications for new consumer ration books, replacement of lost or destroyed ration books, and the usual industrial sugar rationing will continue to be handled by the field offices which had been handling the job for OPA.

Nationally, the agency will be called the Sugar Rationing Administration within the Department of Agriculture and will operate until expiration of rationing and price functions on October 31, 1947. Inventory controls on sugar may be retained through March 31, 1948.

Consumers are promised 35 pounds of household sugar this year, and up to 50 pounds if supplies increase. Sugar rations last year were 25 pounds per person for household use. The 35 pounds will include sugar for canning — no special stamp for this purpose is expected to be available. Industrial rations can be increased only after individual consumers are taken care of.

The new sugar legislation provides that the Secretary of Agriculture may suspend sugar rationing and price controls, in whole or in part, any time before October 31 if supply and demand conditions warrant.

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May 1 is the last day for filing Farm Plans for participation in the 1947 Agricultural Conservation Program.

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Now's the time for spring clean-up on the farm. Clean-up will help in fire prevention and reduce farm accidents. Clean farms are the safest farms.

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Potatoes, oranges, canned grapefruit juice and segments, spinach — fresh and processed, peanut butter, fresh and frozen fish and tom turkeys are high on the plentiful food list for April.

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CROP ROTATION

(Suggested Editorial)

The wise farmer watches his soil and his plants very closely. He finds satisfaction as the soil becomes darker, more fiberous and flocculent, less inclined to crust, and best of all when it becomes more productive. He watches the color of his plants, the stockiness and slenderness of the stems, the appearance of spots, blotches or lesions of any sort. After paying close attention to these facts, what is he to do about it? First he may need help in finding out what the signs mean. He is only interested in increased production, and quality of his crop, and in order to maintain production and quality he has to know what he should do.

Everyone knows how much money he has in the bank, and if the account is removed by checking he has depleted his reserve in that bank. How many realize that nature's bank is the soil and if we deplete the reserve in that bank we have nothing to raise a crop on.

A farmer knows what crops he has grown on each field, but does he realize what each crop is taking from his soil each year? Does he know how much plant food is lost through excessive irrigations? He knows how much he has put back into the soil in the way of crop residue, green manure, barnyard manure and commercial fertilizers. It might be well for him to ask himself this question: "What is the ratio of plant food removed from my soil and that which has been put back into it this year? If I haven't maintained the reserves in the soil how long am I going to be able to receive the present yields?" Some of the ways of maintaining soil fertility have been mentioned, but crop rotation is one of the most important. Most farmers have their crops selected from year to year depending on what their farm will produce and the amount of farm land available, but are they following a system of rotation whereby they can give the soil a change in diet. Very few of our soils are adapted to one crop farming.

There are many ways to work out a crop rotation and many factors to be considered. It is one farming practice that should be given the necessary attention.

(OVER)

There are many sources of information on this subject and it is to the farmer's benefit to get as much of it as possible.

County ACP committeemen are farmers who have had lots of experience in applying good farming methods. Consult them for advice and ACP assistance on production and conservation problems.

New Mexico

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION

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No. 238

FARM PROGRAM NEWS

ANDERSON ENDORSES COMMITTEE METHOD - "The Triple-A approach right down to the county level, and especially at the county level, has proved itself to be the most effective organization thus far devised for administration of any national farm program," Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson recently told a large group of farmers and others attending the Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Farm and Home Days. "A grass roots administration has to be the basis for any effective farm program.

"It will be the basis for the machinery of farm programs in the future, whatever form the programs may take," the Secretary continued. "This country has never witnessed a finer demonstration of the process of democracy in action than has been given, county by county, and community by community, in what has now become the Agricultural Conservation Program, and which is the basis for our whole national farm program effort.

"It should be said to the credit of the farmers that they have done their part in living up to the aspiration of the leaders of those drab days in the development of democracy in agriculture. This development continued right through the war and was the forerunner of the wartime production goals by which farmers themselves charted the course for agriculture at a time when the very existence of democracy throughout the world was at stake.

"This democracy in action, which proved itself in time of depression and in time of war, can now be depended upon in this period when the United States and the whole world are seeking adjustment to changed conditions."

(MORE)

Plant a home garden.

ACP AID GREATEST
FOR SMALLER FARMS - While following the policy of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 "to preserve and rebuild land resources in the national public interest", the Agricultural Conservation Program actually provides larger per-acre practice payments to operators of small farms than to large-farm operators. There are two reasons for this fact: First, Congress provided for an increase in the size of small payments — that is, payments of less than $200; second, Congress placed a maximum limit of $10,000 on payments under the Triple-A Act.

Assistance through ACP practice payments generally is based on the needs of the land, rather than the operator. However, operators of smaller units often need an additional amount of help to carry out practices necessary to conserve and improve their land. According to the 1945 Farm Census, recently released, half of the Nation's farms include only eight percent of the Nation's farmland. However, operators of these farms received 13 percent of the agricultural conservation payments.

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CONDITION OF LAMBS
AVERAGE FOR SEASON - Western States generally report favorable conditions during the month of March for the development of early lambs, although other early lambing areas of the country were not so fortunate. Unseasonably cold weather delayed the start of pastures in Texas, Missouri, and the Southeastern States, and heavy feeding of grain, hay, and roughage was necessary to maintain the condition of ewes and lambs.

While feed prospects improved materially in some of the early lambing sections of California, in the South San Joaquin Valley of California dry weather has limited feed growth, and the development of lambs has been retarded. In the Pacific Northwest, March weather was very favorable, new feed was well advanced by April 1, and lambs made good to excellent progress.

(MORE)

Watch your step — Avoid farm accidents.

PROSPECTS GOOD FOR
RECORD WHEAT CROP - Winter wheat production for 1947 may total more than 973 million bushels, the Department of Agriculture forecasts. This production would be about 99 million bushels larger than the record 1946 winter wheat crop and about a third larger than the 1936-45 average.

Winter wheat was seeded under favorable conditions and ample fall moisture resulted in generally satisfactory germination and excellent fall growth. Present conditions indicate an unusually low abandonment -- perhaps only one-third of average. Indicated yield per seeded acre is 17.2 bushels, compared with 16.7 bushels in 1946 and the 10-year average of 13.9.

Cold weather after mid-December retarded growth of the rye crop, but no unusual losses are apparent. Soil blowing, however, has caused some loss of acreage where snow covering provided inadequate protection in local areas, mainly in Minnesota, North and South Dakota, and Nebraska.

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FARM GRAIN PICTURE
SHOWS WHEAT SHORT - Farm stocks of corn and oats on U. S. farms on April 1 were near record levels, but farm wheat stocks were the smallest since 1938. High prices and demands for foreign relief shipments have encouraged the heavy wheat marketings, with over 225 million bushels of wheat moved from farms between January 1 and April 1 in a record movement for that period. On April 1, about 140 million bushels remained on farms, compared with nearly 200 million bushels a year ago.

Disappearance of corn and oats has been at near highs but large crops of both grains in 1946 provided huge supplies that are still near record levels. Corn stocks are nearly 1,300 million bushels, 300 million bushels more than a year ago. Oats stocks of 537 million bushels on April 1 were 6 percent less than a year ago, but 27 percent above the 10-year average. Marketing livestock at lower weights, smaller numbers of hogs in some areas, and a mild winter all lowered feed requirements.

(MORE)

FEDERAL AUTHORITIES TO STUDY
CONDITION OF "DUST BOWL" - C. V. Hemphill, State Chairman of the Production and Marketing Committee, Fred Moore, PMA District Fieldman and officials from other federal agency offices in New Mexico will attend a meeting in Enid, Oklahoma April 22 and 23 where wind erosion and conservation authorities from Washington and the Southern Great Plains Area will study erosion conditions of the old "Dust Bowl" area.

"The need for maximum production during the war", said Hemphill, "made it necessary for farmers to overwork their soil. As a result, some of the land is becoming a wind erosion hazard.

"At this meeting plans will be made for an orderly reconversion to permanent erosion control and conservation practices to avoid devastation such as occurred in the middle '30's."

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COTTON OPERATIONS
GIVEN NEW LIMITS - After May 10, speculative positions in cotton futures may not exceed 30,000 bales in any one future or in all futures combined on any one market. There are seven active futures. Formerly, the limit was 30,000 bales in any one future. The new limit applies to net positions, long or short, with the existing limit of 30,000 bales per future on daily purchases or sales felt to be a reasonable limit. It does not apply to bona fide hedging positions.

The decision announced today was issued as an amendment to the order of the Commodity Exchange Commission of August 26, 1940. According to the order, limits established by the Commission do not affect provisions of the Commodity Exchange Act relating to manipulation and corners, nor relieve any contract market of its responsibility under the act to prevent manipulation and corners.

(MORE)

SAFETY: The stuff we put in the job that gives us headaches when we leave it out.

WEATHER DEALS BLOW TO BRITISH FARMING - Food production in Britain has suffered a major disaster from recent freezing weather, snowstorms, and floods, according to the British Minister of Agriculture. Much of the flooded land cannot be sown this year. Extensive flood damage has also occurred to farm homes, feed and seed supplies, and livestock.

Estimated losses include 100,000 tons of potatoes in farm storage; 30,000 head of cattle; calves, pigs, and poultry valued at about $2 million; and 1,370,000 sheep and lambs perished in snowdrifts.

Government plans to put flooded land back into production include interest-free loans, special provisions for fertilizer supply and alternative cropping plans, and an appeal for emergency farm labor, probably including use of military personnel and equipment.

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MACHINERY AT COST - The Mexican Ministry of Agriculture is considering a plan to furnish farm machinery at cost to Mexican farmers cultivating irrigated lands. Community farmers, settlers, and private property holders on such land would be organized into cooperatives for purchasing the machinery. According to 1940 figures, irrigated lands in Mexico total about 6.2 million acres, of which 54 percent is held by community farmers and the rest by private-property owners, including settlers.

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FARM NEWS SHORTS

World cattle numbers at the beginning of 1947 totaled about 716 million head, 3.5 million more than a year earlier, and about 1 percent above the 1931-40 average.

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Number of cattle on feed for market in the 11 Corn Belt States on April 1 this year shows an increase of 13 percent, about 200,000 head. However, it is about 150,000 head less than the number on feed two years ago.

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Sign up to participate in ACP before May 1.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION

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No. 239

FARM PROGRAM NEWS

HOG SUPPORT PRICES
ARE REVISED UPWARD - Although strong demand makes it unlikely that the Government will need to support hog prices during the current year, hog support prices for the final 6 months of the 1946-47 marketing year will be available at an average increase of $1.35 a hundred pounds if needed.

The Chicago weekly average support price announced by the Department of Agriculture for the April-September 1947 season will range from $15.25 during May and part of June to $17.25 in September. This average of $15.60 for the period is based on the March 15 parity price of $16.60 per hundred pounds, compared with an average of $14.25 in effect from October 1946 through March 1947. The revision results from the recent sharp increase in parity, which reflects increased prices for things farmers buy. It is also in accord with the approved policy that the hog support price be established at 90 percent of parity, as required by law, at the beginning of the two marketing seasons, spring and fall.

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HIGHER FARM WAGES,
MORE FARM WORKERS - A few more people on farms, getting higher wages, was the farm-labor picture as of April 1.

By regions, increases in wage rates ranged from 7 to 11 percent, except in the Pacific Coast States where the average increase was 5 percent. Nationally, average wage rates this year amounted to almost four times the 1910-14 "parity" period. About 9,242,000 people were at work on the Nation's farms, including 7,571,000 family workers and 1,671,000 hired workers. Both groups were slightly larger than a year ago.

(MORE)

OPTIMISTIC OUTLOOK
FOR WHEAT SUPPLIES - About 450 million bushels of wheat are expected to be available either for export in 1947-48 or for addition to carryover July 1, 1948, the Department of Agriculture reports.

This optimistic production outlook is based on an estimated spring wheat crop of 265 million bushels and the predicted 973 million bushels of winter wheat. The spring wheat estimate is based on planting intentions of 19.28 million acres at average yields. With domestic uses about the same as this year, about 790 million bushels of the estimated total 1,240 million crop production would go for this purpose. Exports in 1947-48 probably will again be large, but some increase in the carryover in 1948 is likely.

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SPEAKING OF PARITY
FOR WHEAT, THAT IS - Wheat prices have been above parity since early May 1946, except for August which is a rather unusual event as most U. S. wheat producers are aware.

Since 1920, prices received by farmers for wheat have been above parity only in 1924-25, 1925-26, and 1936-37 in addition to the past year. Reasons for these movements of wheat prices above parity were foreign demand in 1924 when Canada had a short crop, a small U. S. crop in 1925 and again in 1936 when supplies were greatly reduced by several drought years.

In World War I, the world supply of wheat was small compared with demand which pushed U. S. prices considerably above parity. In World War II, both supply and demand were very large.

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EXPORT ALLOCATIONS
OF GRAIN REDUCED - June export allocations of grain have been reduced so as to (1) protect year-end domestic supplies of wheat and flour, and (2) hold remaining allocations of other grains as close as possible to an amount that can actually be exported by June 30. Allocations for the month amount to about 39,609,000 bushels of wheat, flour, corn, grain sorghums, oats, and barley. Allocations for May totaled about 55,000,000 bushels.

(MORE)

MANY WOULD STARVE
WITHOUT U. S. GRAIN - Scheduled total U. S. grain shipments for the year 1946-47 -- 500 million bushels -- is more grain for human consumption than all the exporting countries of the world together shipped in any one year before 1946, Jesse B. Gilmer, Administrator of the USDA's Production and Marketing Administration, points out. This compares with 400 million bushels exported during the 1945-46 marketing year.

Most of this huge movement of grain to feed hungry people of other lands is wheat, but some corn, oats, barley and grain sorghums are included. Gilmer points out that this is not too much grain to ship since all essential domestic needs for grain have been and are being met. In addition, the U. S. has large supplies of corn and prospects of another record crop of wheat. Consequently, the Government will make every effort to see that large volumes of grain are exported next year, the PMA Administrator said, to protect farmers against the danger of burdensome carryovers.

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ANOTHER ADVANCE
IN FERTILIZERS - A slow-acting nitrogen fertilizer that feeds crops over a long growing period has been developed by soil scientists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The fertilizer is one of a series of combinations of urea and formaldehyde known as Uraform and since both chemicals are in short supply, it is produced only on a laboratory scale.

Unlike nitrogen fertilizers now used, Uraform does not leach out of the soil easily, and so offers promise of a source of nitrogen for corn, potatoes, and tobacco - crops which ordinarily need additional fertilizer after they have been planted. Uraform may be used in mixed fertilizer as well as in separate applications.

(MORE)

Spinach, onions, carrots, cabbage, Irish potatoes, grapefruit, tomato juice and sauerkraut are on the plentiful food list for May.

ACP HELPS PREVENT
FLOODS IN S. DAKOTA - AAA stockwater dams in the Bad River watershed are credited with preventing serious flood conditions at Fort Pierre, South Dakota, twice during the month of March. Pointing out these examples emphasize the fact that all of us, in addition to farmers and ranchers, benefit from the agricultural conservation program, L. G. Creager recently wrote the following published letter to the Pierre "Daily Capitol Journal":

"Early in March the ice in Bad River broke up while the Missouri remained frozen. Had it not been for the vast volume of water stored back in the AAA dams, the stage was set for a real flood. The Bad River ice gorged against the frozen Missouri and things could have gotten serious. However, the dams held back the peak of the run-off, and the water got away under and over the Missouri ice without serious flooding.

"Within the past 24 hours the Missouri reached flood stage, backing the water into the Bad River, and we had a rain and heavy wet snow. Again conditions were right for a serious flood, but the stockwater dams held back the added moisture in the river drainage and avoided a serious situation."

Besides stockwater dams, Agricultural Conservation Program officials report that proper range management and grass seeding and maintenance also have done much to prevent excessive run-off of water in western South Dakota. The heavy gumbo soils in the area are slow to absorb moisture and shed water "like a duck's back" when denuded of vegetation.

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WORLD CORN CROP
SETS NEW RECORD- World corn production was at a record level last year due to the record crop from U. S. farms which accounted for 60 percent of the world's corn production of 5,410 million bushels, 8% above 1945-46 and 13% better than the 1935-39 average.

Although the use of corn as a substitute for wheat and rice is limited, supplies are available to offset somewhat the inadequate supplies of bread grains available for shipment from surplus producing countries. Corn exports from the U. S. may exceed 100 million bushels, compared with shipments of 25 million bushels from last season's crop. Much of this corn will go as military shipments for civilian use in the occupied zones of Europe and the Pacific. Argentina's corn crop is more than twice last season's small harvest. It is estimated at 300 million bushels of which more than 200 million could be exported.

(MORE)

FARM NEWS SHORTS

Commercial hatcheries report 4 percent fewer chicks hatched during March than during the same month last year. Production of 426,201,000 chicks during the first 3 months of the year was 2 percent less than last year.

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Demand for turkey poults continues slow with hatcheries reporting March production about 25 percent below March output a year ago.

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Last year's board bill for the European corn borer cost American farmers at least $37,700,000. Farmers of Iowa and Illinois alone fed about $27 million worth of corn to borers in 1946. And the infestation now spreads clear across the Corn Belt proper.

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USDA's dairy experts urge dairymen to reduce the size of next winter's protein-feed bill by saving a greater percentage of the protein in their home-grown forage crops.

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An enormous amount of the protein available in hays and other harvested forages is lost through conventional methods of harvesting and storing the crops.

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One way to reduce protein losses is to make silage from forage crops instead of curing them in the field for hay, USDA dairy experts advise.

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A further rise in prices and a continued high volume of farm sales characterized developments in farm real estate market during the year ended March 1 with the rise in prices for the country as a whole 12 percent to bring average market values to a level 92 percent above the 1935-39 average.

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Prospective 1947 irrigation water supplies for the Western States as indicated by the final April snow surveys were reported by the USDA to be highly varied but perhaps less favorable than they were a year ago.

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The USDA's Bureau of Agricultural Economics expects wheat prices to remain at high levels until the movement of the new winter crop becomes general and expects that even when new wheat comes to market the seasonal decline will be moderated by the heavy foreign and domestic demand.

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Wheat prices rose rapidly from late January to March 18, and then dropped sharply, but have stayed substantially above January levels.

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United States Department of Agriculture
Production and Marketing Administration

New Mexico
Special Release
(for all newspapers)

INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE WILL MEET AT STATE COLLEGE MAY 13

The Interagency Committee on Range and Livestock Management will meet in the Extension Building at State College, New Mexico May 13, 14 and 15. The opening address will be by Hugh M. Milton, II, President of New Mexico College of A. & M. A., according to Hoy Connelley, PMA Range Specialist and Chairman of the Committee.

This committee was organized in 1936 to develop a western range survey coordinated through the efforts and results of surveys made by the various agencies. The Committee consists of representatives from each of the following institutions and Governmental agencies:

Animal Husbandry Department of New Mexico College of A. & M. A.
Animal Husbandry Department of the University of Arizona
New Mexico Production and Marketing Administration, USDA
Arizona Production and Marketing Administration, USDA
Division of Range Management, Region 3, U. S. Forest Service, USDA
Southwest Forest and Range Experiment Station, USDA
Regional Range Division, Soil Conservation Service, USDA
Office of Regional Grazier, Bureau of Land Management, USDI
Field Service of the Office of Indian Affairs, USDI

"It is the committee's purpose to accomplish a unity of procedure among the agencies concerned with range surveys and range and livestock management. It is thought that through the Interagency Committee on Range and Livestock Management a correlation of training and education methods could be devised whereby advice and information given to ranch operators could be improved and differences eliminated", Mr. Connelley said.

"Another purpose of the Committee is to exchange ideas and information among agencies and agricultural schools in order that all members could have the benefit of the 'other fellow's' experience and recommendations."

(over)

The program of the coming meeting, which will include a trip to the College Ranch and Jornada Experimental Range, will begin with the election of a chairman for the coming year. Reports will be given by agency and institutional agriculturists from New Mexico and Arizona. These reports will cover information pertinent to range and livestock management, such as a discussion of the Hoof and Mouth Disease problem by Dr. William J. Pistor of the University of Arizona.